



Health Services LOS ANGELES COUNTY

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November 15, 2012

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Mitchell H. Katz, M.D.
Director

SUBJECT: **APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE
OFFICER (CEO) OF LAC+USC MEDICAL CENTER
(LAC+USC)**

Mitchell H. Katz, M.D.
Director

Hal F. Yee, Jr., M.D., Ph.D.
Chief Medical Officer

Christina R. Ghaly, M.D.
Deputy Director, Strategic Planning

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www.dhs.lacounty.gov

*To ensure access to high-quality,
patient-centered, cost-effective
health care to Los Angeles County
residents through direct services at
DHS facilities and through
collaboration with community and
university partners.*

Pete Delgado, our current LAC+USC CEO will be returning to Texas to be with his family. His last day with us is November 30, 2012. With your support, I will be appointing Christina R. Ghaly, MD to be the Interim CEO effective December 1, 2012.

Dr. Ghaly is currently the Department of Health Services' Deputy Director for Strategic Planning. In this position, she has done an outstanding job during the last year and a half, including taking the lead with regard to compliance with our federal/state waiver, fulfillment of our departmental strategic planning, modernizing of our health information technology, and serving as liaison for the Department with the California Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems. During that time, she has also seen patients at LAC+USC in urgent care and as an attending on the medicine wards.

We are currently in the early stages of a national search for a new LAC+USC CEO. It is my hope to have a permanent successor begin in April 2013. Dr. Ghaly is not a candidate for the position and she and I both look forward to her returning to her current position.

During the time that she is at LAC+USC, she will be focusing on the successful implementation of our new utilization review system (Interqual), the continued improvement of inpatient and ancillary service operational efficiency, the improvement of physical space allocation including the establishment of a step-down unit for patients no longer needing ICU care but requiring closer monitoring than can be performed on the medical –surgical floor, the improved flow of medical and psychiatric patients to the appropriate level of care, and increased availability of outpatient services.

During the time that she is interim CEO, Dr. Anish Mahajan, will be my representative at Board meetings and other events when I am not



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available. He is an internist whom we recruited from UCLA in January 2012 to direct our Planning and Data Analytics unit, where we are capturing the necessary data to improve our performance as an organization. Before his faculty position at UCLA, he was a United States White House Fellow and was involved in drafting sections of the meaningful use guidelines for electronic health care records and analyses supporting the development of the Affordable Care Act. Dr. Ghaly's other responsibilities will be divided among other departmental leaders including myself.

If you have any concerns or suggestions, please contact me at (213) 240-8101.

MHK:jp

c: Chief Executive Office
County Counsel
Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
Dean, Keck School of Medicine of USC
Associate Dean, Keck School of Medicine USC
DHS Executive Staff
LAC+USC Network Executive Committee